

# STDs in Persons Entering Corrections Facilities

## Public Health Impact

Multiple studies and surveillance projects have demonstrated a high prevalence of STDs in persons entering jails and juvenile detention facilities. Screening for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis at intake offers an opportunity to identify infections, prevent complications, and reduce transmission in the community. In cities where routine syphilis screening in jails occurs, a substantial percentage of all reported cases are identified in jails.<sup>1</sup> Compiling data and analyzing trends in STD prevalence in this population provides a method for monitoring trends in STD prevalence in the community.

## Observations

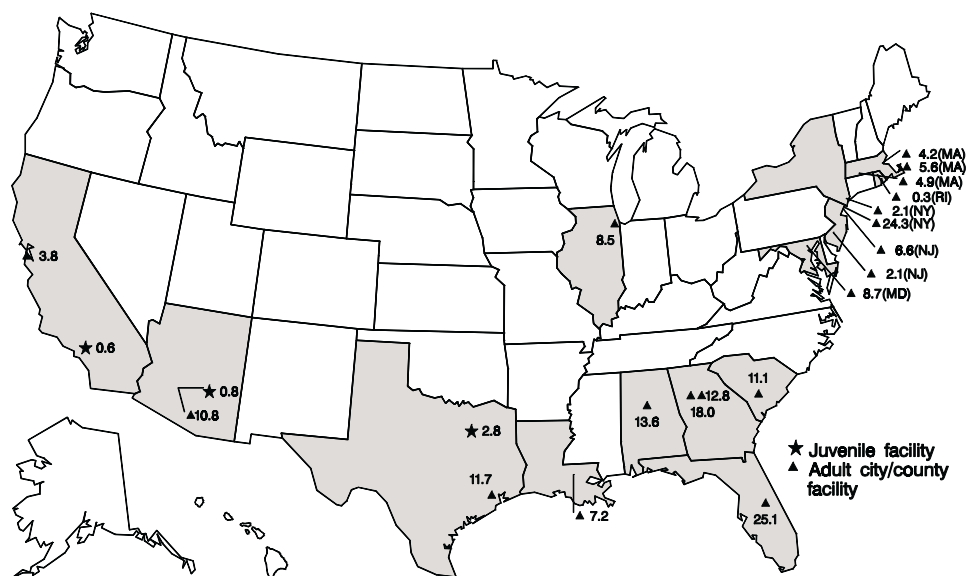
- In 1999, 10 states reported chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis data to CDC as part of the Jail STD Prevalence Monitoring Project, three states reported syphilis data as part of the Innovations in Syphilis Prevention Project, 14 additional states reported data (at least 100 test results) from corrections facilities as part of the Regional Infertility Prevention Project, and three additional states reported data in response to CDC's request for data.
- The maps shown below represent approximately 282,000 syphilis tests for men and 61,000 syphilis tests for women, 40,000 chlamydia tests for men and 42,000 chlamydia tests for women, and 107,000 gonorrhea tests for men and 38,000 gonorrhea tests for women.
- The median percentage of reactive syphilis tests was 8.5% (range, 0.3% to 25.1%) for women entering 19 adult jails and 0.8% (range, 0.6% to 2.8%) for adolescent women entering three juvenile detention centers (Figure AA). The median percentage of reactive tests was 3.9% (range, 1.0% to 7.7%) for men at 18 adult jails and 0.4% (range, 0.2% to 1.6%) at three juvenile facilities. The percentage of reactive syphilis tests was higher for women than for men in 19 (95%) of 20 adult and juvenile facilities reporting syphilis test results for both sexes (Figures AA, BB). The percentage of reactive syphilis tests representing new cases of syphilis varied from site to site (data not shown).
- The positivity for chlamydia and gonorrhea in women was higher in juvenile facilities than in adult facilities. In adolescent women entering juvenile detention facilities, the median positivity for chlamydia was 13% (range, 4.9% to 25.2%); positivity was greater than 10% in 16 (76%) of 21 counties reporting data (Figure CC). The median positivity for gonorrhea in women was 6.4% (range, 1.3% to 14.1%); positivity was greater than 5% in 8 (57%) of 14 juvenile facilities (Figure EE).
- The median positivity for chlamydial infection in men entering juvenile facilities in 23 counties was 4.3% (range, 1.5% to 10.0%) (Figure DD). The median positivity

for gonorrhea among men entering juvenile facilities in 11 counties was 1.9% (range, 0.4% to 3.8%) (Figure FF).

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<sup>1</sup>CDC. Syphilis screening among women arrestees at the Cook County Jail – Chicago, 1996. *MMWR* 1998;47:432-3.

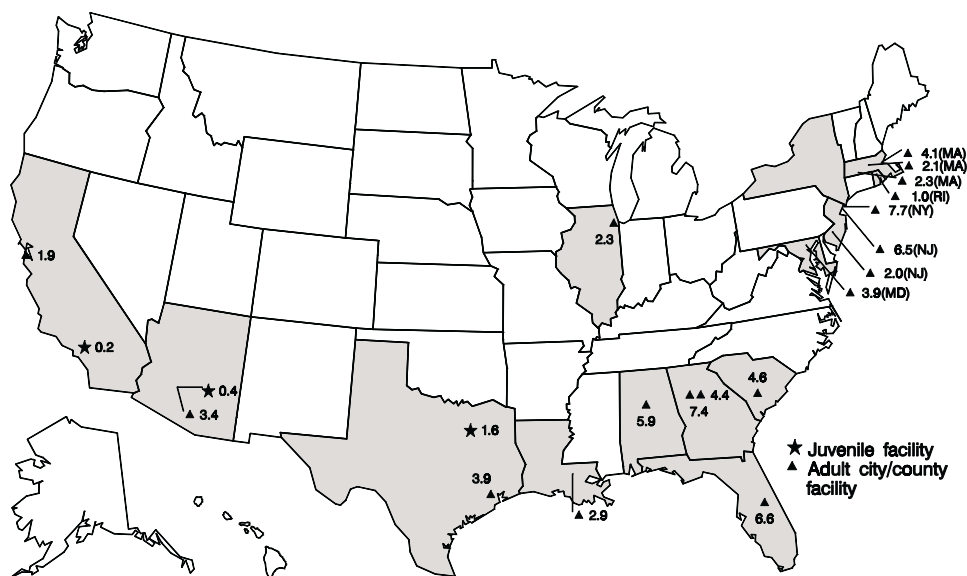
**Figure AA. Syphilis serologic tests — Percent seroreactivity in women entering city or county jails or juvenile detention centers<sup>†</sup>, 1999**



<sup>†</sup>From facilities reporting >100 test results.

SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Figure BB. Syphilis serologic tests — Percent seroreactivity in men entering city or county jails or juvenile detention centers<sup>†</sup>, 1999**



<sup>†</sup>From facilities reporting >100 test results.

SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Map of the United States showing the number of juvenile and adult facilities by state. The map uses symbols: stars for juvenile facilities, squares for adult state facilities, and triangles for adult city/county facilities. Numbers are placed near the symbols to indicate the count.

Legend:

- ★ Juvenile facility
- Adult state facility
- ▲ Adult city/county facility

Data points from the map:

State	Juvenile Facility (★)	Adult State Facility (■)	Adult City/County Facility (▲)
Alaska	0	0	0
Arizona	19.5	0	0
California	13.0	0	6.2, 10.3
Colorado	11.3	1.9	0
Connecticut	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0
Illinois	0	0	0
Indiana	0	0	0
Iowa	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0
Kentucky	0	0	0
Louisiana	19.2	0	0
Maine	0	0	0
Massachusetts	0	0	12.7, 1.3
Michigan	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0
Mississippi	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0
Montana	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0
Nevada	0	0	0
New Hampshire	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0
New Mexico	13.0	0	0
New York	0	0	2.5, 5.1
North Carolina	0	0	0
North Dakota	0	0	0
Ohio	0	0	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0
Oregon	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	0	0	8.3, 25.2
Rhode Island	0	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0
Texas	15.9, 17.1	0	0
Vermont	0	0	0
Virginia	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0
Wyoming	0	0	0

SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



